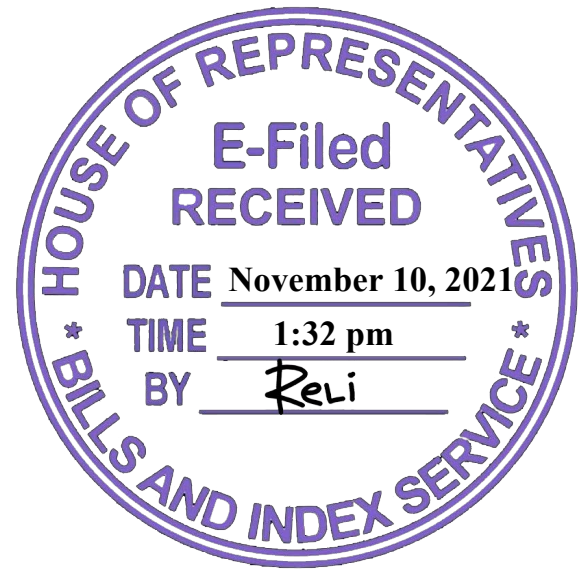




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10469



Introduced by Representatives Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco and
John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A strong national identity is the true mark of a nation that has established a connection to its heritage, its culture, and its history. First-world and advanced countries have successfully built their own national identities and these identities have influenced their social structures, such as the form of their governments, their culture, their heritage, their lifestyles and their values. Outstandingly, they have maintained their national identities in spite of rapid globalization and technological evolution.

In the Philippine setting, many Filipinos appear to have forgotten and have lost the values and beliefs of our true national identity, which may be a possible aftermath of our colonial experience, the implication of capitalism and industrialization, and the advancement of information technology. It is time for our country to revisit our past through one of its cultural remnants, our traditional/indigenous writing systems, including the pre-colonial writing system called *Baybayin*.

Baybayin is an ancient syllabary script of the early Filipinos, which means "to spell." In the 17th century, Spanish priest Pedro Chirino and Antonio De Morga wrote literature about the widespread use of *Baybayin* as a mode of communication among Filipinos. Prof. F. Landa Jocano states that our Filipino ancestors have established socio-cultural systems, even before colonizers from Spain anchored on our shores. In fact, *Baybayin* was used by our ancestors to build links of commerce and trade with Malaysia, Indonesia, and Middle Eastern countries.

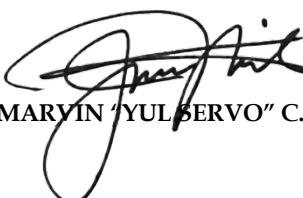
In *Relacion De Las Islas Filipinas*, Chirino stated:

"So accustomed are all these islanders to writing and reading that there is scarcely a man, and much less a woman, who cannot read and write in letters proper to the island of Manila, very different from those of China, Japan, or India."

Contrary to the term "*indios*," pre-colonial Filipinos had a well-defined identity and heritage, which allowed their society to function and grow. Lost, but not forgotten, *Baybayin*, together with other indigenous/traditional writing scripts, should be preserved and promoted as part of the country's resurgence.

In view of the foregoing, the urgent passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO


JOHN MARVIN "YUL SERVO" C. NIETO



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
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**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 10469

**Introduced by Representative Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco and
John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto**

**AN ACT PROMOTING PHILIPPINE INDIGENOUS AND
TRADITIONAL WRITING SYSTEMS AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR
PROTECTION, PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Indigenous and Traditional Writing Systems Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to inculcate, propagate and preserve the cultural heritage and treasures of the Philippines, as a means to promote patriotism and social consciousness among the citizenry. Towards this end, there is a need to promote, protect, preserve and conserve Philippine indigenous and traditional writing systems, as tools for cultural development, for instilling national pride, and for protecting Filipino cultural heritage and identity.

SEC 3. *Promotion of Philippine Indigenous and Traditional Writing Systems.* In order to generate greater awareness of indigenous and traditional scripts and to foster wider appreciation for their significance and beauty, the promotion and preservation of these writing systems are hereby recognized, and these scripts shall form part of our cultural treasures.

Indigenous and traditional writing systems, as representations of Filipino tradition and national identity, shall be promoted and preserved through the following:

(a) Mandating the Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to include these writing systems in relevant subjects of basic and

higher education curricula and to create an elective or specialized course in higher education for the study of the same;

(b) Creating and supporting activities that promote awareness of these writing systems, particularly during *Buwan ng Wika* and similar occasions and events;

(c) Conducting seminars, conferences, conventions, symposia, and other relevant activities on the study of Philippine Indigenous and Traditional Writing Systems;

(d) Ensuring good record-keeping of relevant documents and the preservation of oral evidence on these writing systems; and

(e) Other applicable measures, as may be adopted by concerned agencies.

SEC. 4. *Protection, Preservation and Conservation of Indigenous or Traditional Scripts of the Philippines.* - The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCAA) shall be the lead policymaking unit for the promotion of Philippine Indigenous and Traditional Writing Systems.

Accordingly, the NCAA is hereby mandated to protect, preserve, and conserve these writing systems as National Cultural Treasures, in accordance with Republic Act No. 10066 or the *National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009*. The NCAA shall coordinate with DepEd, CHED and other relevant agencies for the proper implementation of the same.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days after the approval of this Act, the NCAA, in coordination with DepEd and CHED, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any section, part or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts, sections and provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,